HOUSE . . . . No. 2886

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT TO RESTORE MEDICAID BENEFITS FOR FAMILIES GOING FROM WELFARE TO WORK.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1   Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 adding the following new section:—
3   Section 1B. The department shall establish a program of med-
4 ical benefits for those families and individuals who, due to
5 increased income from employment, lose eligibility for the pro-
6 gram of medical care and assistance administered by the depart-
7 ment in accordance with Title XIX of the Social Security Act and
8 whose employer does not offer health care insurance; provided,
9 however, that such family's or individual's income during the
10 period of extended eligibility shall not exceed one hundred and
11 eighty-five percent of the non-farm income poverty guidelines
12 prescribed by the United States office of management and budget.
13 Benefits under such program shall be provided to such families
14 and individuals until the end of the twenty-fourth month following
15 the month in which such families or individuals lose eligibility for
16 said Title XIX benefits, so long as all eligibility criteria are met.
17 The department shall encourage families and individuals eligible
18 under this section to enroll in management health care plans wher-
19 ever practicable. For certain persons whose employers offer health
20 care insurance, but are otherwise eligible for benefits under this
21 section, the department may contribute the employee's cost, if

22 any, of employer-provided health insurance. The department may
23 also require eligible families and individuals to contribute to the
24 cost of the benefits provided under this section.